

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /048 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:WPKRIEBEL:CB

APPROVED BY IO:WBBUFFUM

NEA:FMDICKMAN

EA/K:FMISCH

S/SO-P. JOHNSON

S: J. COVEY (PHONE)

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P R 190041Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 248498

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN, SN

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER ON KOREA

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO
FOREIGN MINISTER SHEIKH SABAH.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

AS I BELIEVE ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON MENTIONED DURING
HIS MEETING WITH YOU IN NEW YORK, THE KOREAN ITEM IS THE
MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE ON THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA THIS
YEAR AS FAR AS THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED. I WOULD
THEREFORE LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW OUR
POSITION AND EXPLAIN WHY WE ATTACH SUCH IMPORTANCE TO THIS
MATTER.

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THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF THE DEBATE WILL BE ARRANGEMENTS TO

MAINTAIN THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA. I RECOGNIZE THAT MANY UN MEMBERS BELIEVE - AND THE UNITED STATES AGREES - THAT IT IS TIME TO TERMINATE THE UN COMMAND. HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY PROPOSAL TO TERMINATE THE COMMAND WHICH FAILS TO PROVIDE FOR THE

CONTINUING VALIDITY OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN OF SUCH IMPORTANCE IN KEEPING THE PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONTINUED STABILITY IN THE AREA AND THE INTEREST OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY IN THIS STABILITY MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TAKE RESPONSIBLE ACTION IN THIS DEBATE.

THE RESOLUTION WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS JOINED IN COSPONSORING IS DESIGNED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO PREVIOUS UN DECISIONS ON THE KOREAN ISSUE AND TO THE NEEDS FOR MAINTAINING PEACE ON THE PENINSULA. IT PROVIDES FOR TERMINATION OF THE UN COMMAND. IT DOES THIS WITHOUT UPSETTING THE PRINCIPAL MECHANISM FOR MAINTENANCE OF PEACE IN KOREA, THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT OF 1953, BECAUSE IT MAKES CLEAR THAT THE UN COMMAND, AS SIGNATORY TO THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, CAN BE REPLACED ONLY WHEN A SUBSTITUTE MECHANISM FOR MAINTAINING THE ARMISTICE IS AGREED BY ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED. THE RESOLUTION RESPONDS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S ENDORSEMENT IN THE CONSENSUS RESOLUTION OF 1973, REAFFIRMED LAST YEAR, OF TALKS BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA BY CALLING FOR A CONFERENCE BETWEEN ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED WITH THE ARMISTICE WHICH INCLUDES SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA, THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA. IT FORESEES A CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD FIRST PROVIDE NEW MECHANISMS FOR MAINTAINING THE ARMISTICE BUT WHICH COULD THEN GO ON TO CONSIDER MORE LASTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR REDUCING TENSIONS ON THE PENINSULA.

THE RESOLUTION PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF NORTH KOREA DOES NOT RESPOND TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS BECAUSE IT CALLS FOR A PEACE SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE "REAL PARTIES" WHICH NORTH KOREA IDENTIFIES AS THE
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UNITED STATES AND NORTH KOREA, EXCLUDING SOUTH KOREA WHICH WHICH IS AN ESSENTIAL PARTY TO ANY SUCH AGREEMENT. IT CALLS FOR REMOVING THE UN COMMAND WITHOUT ANY PROVISION FOR MAINTAINING THE ARMISTICE MECHANISM WHILE DISCUSSIONS OF A "PEACE AGREEMENT" PROCEED. THE RESOLUTION CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS "UNDER THE UN FLAG" WHICH NORTH KOREA MAKES CLEAR ARE U.S. TROOPS IN KOREA. THESE TROOPS ARE IN KOREA UNDER A U.S.-ROK BILATERAL AGREEMENT

AT THE INVITATION OF THE ROK. NORTH KOREA, INOTE,
MAINTAINS TREATIES OF MUTUAL DEFENSE WITH BOTH THE
SOVIET UNION AND THE PRC.

THE ALGERIAN RESOLUTION WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO INSTABILITY
ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, IS BLATANTLY ONESIDED IN

IGNORING THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND INTERFERES IN AN
IMPORTANT U.S. SECURITY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE ROK. I
RECOGNIZE THE KNOWN PREFERENCE OF YOUR GOVERNMENT TO
ADOPT A NEUTRAL POSITION ON THIS ISSUE BUT, BECAUSE OF
THE VERY SERIOUS CONSIDERATIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE AND OUR
CLOSE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF
YOU COULD INSTRUCT YOUR DELEGATION AT NEW YORK TO VOTE
AGAINST THE ALGERIAN RESOLUTION. IF YOUR GOVERNMENT FEELS
AFTER CONSIDERED REVIEW THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, I WOULD
HOPE AT THE VERY LEAST YOUR DELEGATION WOULD SUPPORT US
ON THE QUESTION OF PRIORITY AND ----- WOULD
ABSTAIN ON THE ALGERIAN RESOLUTION. WARM REGARDS,
HENRY A. KISSINGER.

END TEXT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL REVERSION, DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENTATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE248498
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WPKRIEBEL:CB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750363-0008
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751041/aaaabkdi.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER ON KOREA
TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, SN, UNGA, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (SABAH, SHEIKH)
To: KUWAIT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006